



# American College of Surgeons

FOUNDED BY SURGEONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, 1913

633 N Saint Clair St • Chicago, IL 60611-3211 • phone 312/202-5305 • fax 312/202-5016

**Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS**  
Executive Director

Dear Doctor:

I am writing to urge your participation in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics has invested many years in developing this unique study, which I believe has emerged as a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based, ambulatory practice.

Endorsement by the American College of Surgeons and the support generated among all physicians are indispensable in continuation of this research program. There is considerable interest in gaining such information, which can prove to be an original, invaluable base for planning and organizing health services, assessing health facility and manpower requirements, determining possible modifications in medical education programs, and providing increased knowledge reflecting the natural history and epidemiology of disease in the ambulatory setting.

Along with other medical organizations, we have been involved in developing the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find the survey design minimizes the amount of recordkeeping and time involved and maximizes the utility of the data collected. In addition, strict confidentiality provisions are to be maintained, with only summary data to be published and made available to the medical profession, health planners, researchers, and the public.

I am confident that the information derived will be well worth the extra, individual effort expended by participating physicians like yourself. Again, may I urge your support for the NAMCS by providing the information requested? We can look forward to obtaining the results of this research study.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Russell, M.D., F.A.C.S.

TRR:cp